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**2011 SB-00932-R00-SB  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SEVERE NEED SCHOOL  
FOR PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST GRANT PROGRAM.**

Good Afternoon,

Did you know that by the end of the year, nearly 17 million children in America will worry about when their next meal will come? That's nearly one in four who are at risk of hunger, and who have limited or uncertain access to the nutritious foods they need to develop to their full potential. Despite its devastating and highly visible consequences, childhood hunger is invisible. You can't see it just by looking, and you can't measure it in pounds, but it is among us: It affects black, white, Asian and Hispanic, short and tall, thin and chubby. Working as Executive Director of Food Services for New Haven Public Schools, I see these children every day. These are the children in our schools who rely on school meals for their ONLY nutrition of the day; YES, I said their ONLY nutrition of the day!

A recent report by the Food Research and Action center shows only 58.4% of Connecticut schools have breakfast and only 38.9% of our low-income students are eating it in schools that serve breakfast. Connecticut leaves \$7.6 million on the table in DC due to a lack of school breakfast programs and low student participation. Our kids aren't hungry because we lack food or because of a lack of food and nutrition programs. They are hungry because they lack access to these programs and to the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive. Increasing breakfast in schools is the first step to making a difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all today.